

Human Trafficking Task Force, Subcommittee on Education and Training

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 10, 2013
Boston Police Headquarters

Attending: Roy Ahn (MGH), Gert Condon (DCF), Kathryn Conn (MGH), Shawn Croke (MA-DPL), Lisa Goldblatt Grace, Hannah Harp (MGH), Wendy Macias-Konstantopoulos (MGH), Kelly Nee (BPD), and Juan Torres (BOD).
For the Attorney General's Office: Ann Meola

I. Call to order/Introductions

Co-chair Grace called to order the regular meeting of the Human Trafficking Task Force, Subcommittee on Education and Training at 10:05 a.m. on January 10, 2013 at the Boston Police Department. Members and attendees introduced themselves and identified their agency affiliations.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the November 27, 2012 were approved as submitted.

III. Working with Social Services Providers (Third Tenet)

Members of the subcommittee and attendees reviewed the tenet related to working with social service and medical providers. Dr. Roy Ahn from MGH's Center for Global Health and their research initiative on human trafficking and how local systems respond. Their work has focused on five countries, including the U.S. cities of Boston, Los Angeles, and New York City. After reviewing the awareness of medical providers of this issue, their team developed a healthcare training focusing on human trafficking victims. This included 45 minute Grand Rounds up to two hour full training with case and clinical presentations. The team conducted 35 trainings on the East Coast over a one year period. They focused on a Trafficking 101 (including what is it? what are the signs? health consequences? what can healthcare workers do? what are some prevention strategies?) Longer trainings were conducted by a interdisciplinary team of a US Assistant Attorney General, Assistant District Attorney, and a domestic violence advocate). Overall, general awareness of this topic is quite low, except where there has been a healthcare champion with the group who develops a grassroots approach to trafficking survivors.

The team from the Center for Global Health recommended using Grand Rounds as a built-in training ground with an identified champion within the medical facility, with an incentive to attend these 90 minute trainings. Medical students could participate with nursing and paraprofessionals in an elective violence prevention training course. However, the team indicated it will take time to integrate these trainings into the medical professionals. Important to include the signs and symptoms of both the commercial

exploitation and labor trafficking. Overall, all healthcare providers should be trained, using a tiered approach.

Florida requires physicians to take a written test on domestic violence, which includes an awareness of human trafficking, for relicensing purposes. If Massachusetts should decide to recommend this, will need to be approved by the Board of Registration of Medicine. Currently, MGH and Haven are conducting a webinar on trafficking and all physicians will have to take it and can receive continuing education credits.

Gert Condon from DCF-Dimock, updated the subcommittee on the state of training and awareness of DCF workers on the topic of trafficking. DCF has developed a screening and checklist available to all workers. However, there are 2 to 3 workers in each of the Boston offices that are identified as trafficking responders. All new DCF employees are required to be trained on this issue. Statewide trainings are also conducted by the Child Welfare Institute. Gert recommended that trafficking should be made a part of all core trainings for workers in the field of social services, as well as a part of management level trainings.

Shawn Croke reported that there might be a variety of methods to ensure that licensed professionals are trained on human trafficking issues. One method might be to require questions in future licensure exams to include trafficking topics. This could include social workers, psychologists, physical and occupational therapists, dentists, as well as massage therapists. For the medical profession, it could also be included in the curriculum for CME's. Shawn agreed to provide additional information at a future meeting given the late hour.

IV. New Agenda Items

Lisa Goldblatt-Grace reported that subcommittee member Pi Heseltine (MSP) has been reassigned and will not be able to continue to serve on the subcommittee. A new representative from the MSP will be identified for representation on the subcommittee.

V. Adjournment

Lisa Goldblatt-Grace adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m. The next scheduled meeting date is Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 10:15 a.m. in the Media Room at the Boston Police Department.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Meola